

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the subject final Office Action, claims 1-6 and 19-26 were rejected. Claims 1-2, 6, and 19-26 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 19-26 are now pending.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's consideration of the arguments presented in the Applicant's Response mailed April 5, 2006.

Miscellaneous

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the fact that the primary inventor is Roundtree (not Clark), and request the record be updated to reflect this fact.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-5 and 19-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in item 3, page 3 of the final Office Action as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,580,916 to *Weisshaar et al.* (hereinafter, Weisshaar). Applicants respectfully disagree.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite a method comprising:

"defining by a service delivery framework provider, a plurality of features of a service to be performed by one or more vendors separate and distinct from the service delivery framework provider and from each other, each feature having one or more concepts;

accepting by the service delivery framework provider, a first and a second user interface definition defining a first and a second user interface displayable to a client device from a first and a second vendor equipped and available to provide the service, the first and second user interfaces including first and second indicia, the indicia also displayable to the client device, correspondingly identifying a solution provided in response to a request for the service as being provided by the first or the second vendor, respectively;

receiving by the service delivery framework provider, from the client device, a request for the service expressed in terms of selected one(s) of the one or more concepts of selected one(s) of the one or more features of the service;

routing by the service delivery framework provider, the received request for the service to the first vendor;

receiving by the service delivery framework provider, a solution to the request for the service from the first service vendor; and

returning by the service delivery framework provider, the solution to the service request to the client device, employing the displayable first user interface having the displayable first indicia identifying the solution as being provided by the first vendor.”

In contrast, Weisshaar fails to disclose, expressly or inherently, displayable first and second user interfaces having displayable first and second indicia identifying first and second vendors, the first and second vendors having provided the definitions defining the displayable first and second user interfaces to a service delivery framework provider. Weisshaar simply teaches a client formulating a request template including attributes of a requested service and providing that request template to a service framework of the client. The service framework then compares the request template to response objects provided by service providers, such as vendors. The response objects include a service provider interface abstracting the functionalities/services provided by the service provider (i.e., an application programming interface (API)) as well as attributes of the service provider, such as a vendor name, a version identifier, a connection speed, etc. Upon finding a response object which matches the request template, the service framework provides the response object to the client, allowing the client to request service from the service provider and communicate with the service provider via its API.

Thus, the only interface discussed by Weisshaar is the API included in the response object. Nowhere does Weisshaar discuss “accepting by the service delivery framework provider, a first and a second user interface definition defining a first and a second user interface displayable to a client device from a first and a second vendor equipped and available to provide the service, the

first and second user interfaces including first and second indicia, the indicia also displayable to the client device,” as is claimed in amended claim 1. If any sort of displayable user interface is provided by the service provider/vendor to the client, the user interface would be provided directly from the service provider to the client during their subsequent interaction, and not through a service delivery framework provider, as is claimed in claim 1. Weisshaar does not teach a service delivery framework provider (the Examiner equates this component to the service framework of Weisshaar) that receives definitions for a displayable user interface from a service provider/vendor, much less receiving such definition from a first and a second vendor, as is claimed in amended claim 1.

Also, Weisshaar does not teach “routing by the service delivery framework provider, the received request for the service to the first vendor,” as is claimed by amended claim 1. Weisshaar discloses that the client either directly requests service from the first vendor, if the first vendor is a local service, or requests the service through a front-end of the service provider/first vendor. Nowhere does Weisshaar discuss or contemplate having the service framework (which the Examiner equates to the service delivery framework provider of claim 1 of the present application) route a request for service, as is claimed by amended claim 1. In Weisshaar, the service framework merely serves a comparative purpose, discovering a service and notifying the client about details of that service.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is patentable over Weisshaar under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Amended claims 21 and 24 include in substance the same recitations discussed earlier for amended claim 1. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, amended claims 21 and 24 are patentable over Weisshaar under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 2-6, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26, depend from either claim 1, 21 or 24, incorporating their recitations. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, claims 2-6, 19-20, 22-23, and 25-26 are patentable over Weisshaar under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

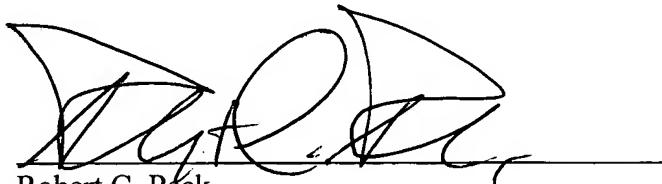
In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103," item 5 on page 8 of the above-identified final Office Action, claim 6 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Weisshaar in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0013483 to *Ausems et al.* (hereinafter "Ausems") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ausems fails to cure the above discussed deficiencies of Weisshaar. Therefore, amended claim 1 remains patentable over Weisshaar even when combined with Ausems. Amended claim 6 depends from amended claim 1, incorporating its limitations. Accordingly, claim 6 is patentable over Weisshaar combined with Ausems under §103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6 and 19-26 are in condition for allowance, and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1513. Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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